

REMARKS

The Official Action of March 26, 2004, and the prior art cited and relied upon therein have been carefully studied. The claims in the application are now claims 1-6, and these claims define patentable subject matter warranting their allowance. Favorable reconsideration and such allowance are respectfully urged.

Claims 7-9 have been canceled. Claims 1-6 remain in the application for consideration.

In response to the Examiner's objection to the drawings, specification and claims 1-9, and rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, Applicant has:

- (1) Canceled claims 8 and 9 and identified elements 31 and 81 in the drawings;
- (2) Amended the specification to delete the word "tendential" at every occurrence; and
- (3) Amended the claims to eliminate each of the problems identified by the Examiner.

Applicant respectfully submits that the above objections and rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph have now been overcome.

The Examiner has further rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Goebel '922, claims 3 and 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goebel '922 in view of Gross '490, claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goebel '922 in view of Rogers '224, claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goebel '922 in view of Goebel '138, and claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goebel '922 in view of Rothamel '513. Applicant respectfully traverses all of these rejections especially as applied to amended claims 1-6.

The feature of claim 1 setting out a "plane containing said transducers" permits the transducers to receive forces acting in said plane. This is one of the primary inventive features of the claimed invention, and is set out on page 4, lines 7-20 of the specification.

In comparison, the feature of the transducers receiving coplanar forces is not disclosed by Goebel as only non-coplanar transducers are provided.

Goebel comprises three transducer means (load cells 10, 11 and 12), two of them (11 and 12) being laterally positioned in respect of the shaft.

The two cells (11 and 12) of Goebels are not equivalent to one only cell positioned in the plane comprising the shaft axis and the third cell (10), because of the relationship between the transducers position and the position of the elastic supports.

The claimed invention provides that the elastic supports comprise at least two coplanar leaf springs symmetrical about the shaft axis and positioned in a plane perpendicular to the plane containing the axis of the drive means of the said shaft and of the transducers.

Goebels does not teach two elastic coplanar means positioned in the same plane of the shaft axis (according to the feature of the claim the plane of the leaf springs must be orthogonal to the plane comprising the axis of said drive means, of the shaft and of the transducers).

In Goebels, it cannot be verified that (see Applicant's specification at page 5 last paragraph) under the action of the forces transmitted by the drive means, the elastic supports assume a symmetrical deformed configuration passing through the axis of the shaft.

The coplanar arrangement is very important in achieving the result explained at the end of page 5, i.e. the

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reaction of the elastic supports does not influence the deformation induced by the imbalance forces.

Acknowledgement by the PTO of the receipt of applicants' papers filed under Section 119 is noted.

The prior art documents made of record and not relied upon have been noted along with the implication that such documents are deemed by the PTO to be insufficiently pertinent to warrant their applications against any of applicant's claims.

Favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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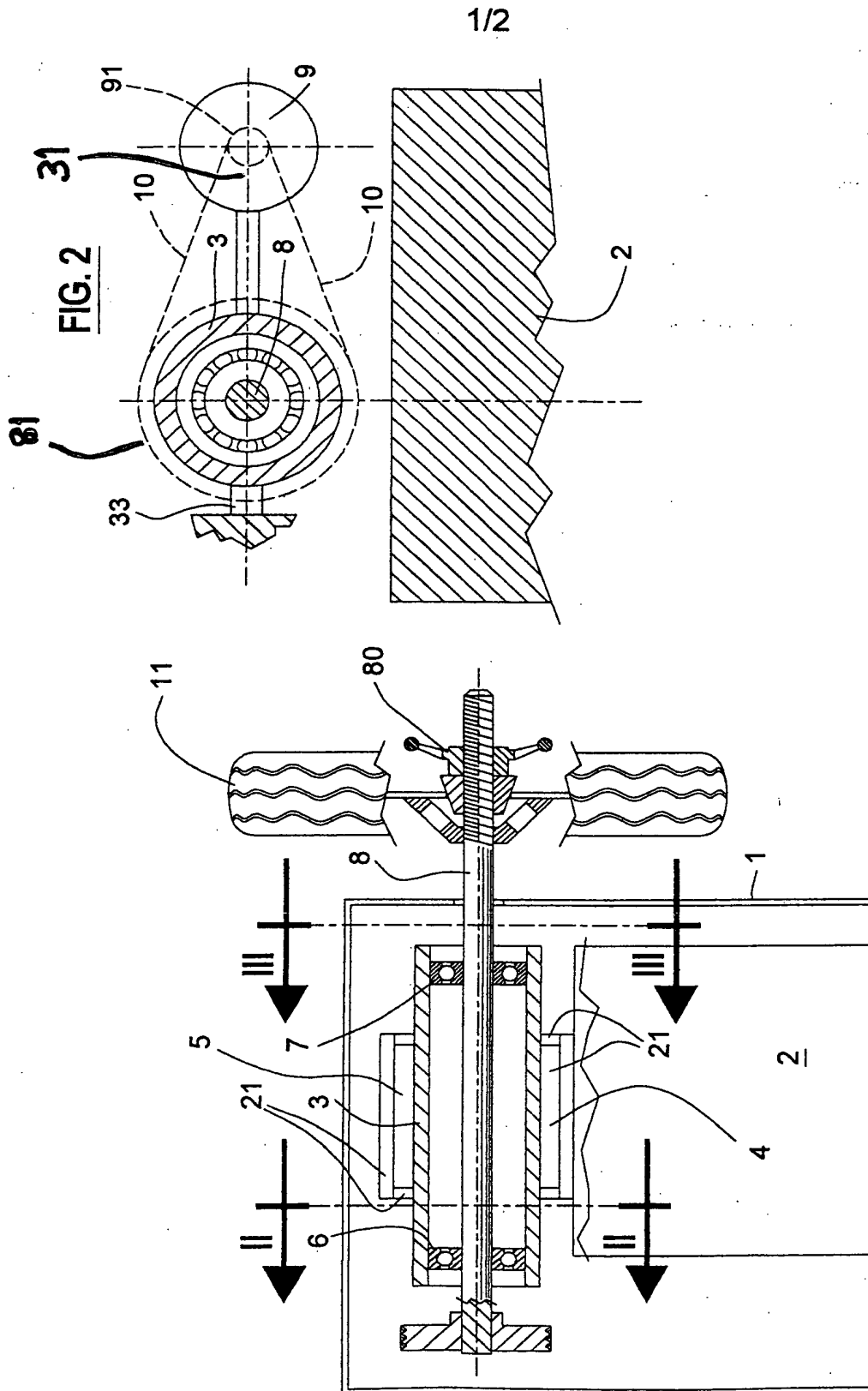


FIG. 1

